

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated on March 30, 2005.

Claims 1, 15-17, 49, and 63-65 are amended, claims 14 and 62 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-13, 15-61, and 63-96 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-96 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leedom (U.S. Patent No. 5,329,447) in light of Grow (U.S. Patent No. 6,694,315). As acknowledged by the Examiner, the Leedom is **not** a “system for managing patent application data via the Internet,” as is claimed. Rather the Leedom system is a system that resides on the desktop of a user. Also, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the Leedom patent does not describe a system that includes “a messaging module operable to provide messaging to users of the system wherein messages are sendable from within matters in the matter module and accessible within matters” The Leedom patent does not describe a messaging functionality at all. The Examiner also acknowledged that the Leedom patent does not describe “a security module, the security module operable to restrict Internet access to patent application task and matter data management to selected system users,” but states that “the need for security is inherent in patent prosecution, as information in an application file is restricted until published.”

The Grow patent describes a very cumbersome system for document assembly and docketing related to the document assembly. The Grow patent describes sending e-mail reminders or other types of reminders, but does not describe “messaging to users of the system wherein messages are sendable from within matters in the matter module and accessible within matters” as is claimed. There is no indication in the Grow patent that that e-mails referred to in the patent are sendable from within matters in the matter module or are accessible within matters.

Furthermore, neither Grow nor Leedom describe matter modules and task modules as claimed which are as follows:

“a matter module, the matter module operable to manage data relating to patent matters, the managed data comprising docketing data, the docketing data generated within the system, the docketing data generation based on patent laws and rules governing patent prosecution;

a task module, the task module operable to manage tasks related to each matter managed by the matter module, **the tasks comprising docketing tasks and other tasks generated automatically within the system** and based on patent laws and rules governing patent prosecution.”

The Leedom patent describes only docketing tasks. Thus, Leedom does not describe the task module claimed because the only functionality that the Leedom device has is performing docketing. The Grow patent performs document generation but does not have document generation integrated into a matter module or a task module. Rather, users must go to a user form table. Any assembled document prepared using the Grow system is not stored in the Grow system. Thus, the Grow patent does not have a “task module, the task module operable to manage tasks related to each matter managed by the matter module, **the tasks comprising docketing tasks and other tasks generated automatically within the system** and based on patent laws and rules governing patent prosecution.” Combining the references does not remedy this deficiency because together, they still do not describe the task module claimed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6976 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30 day of August, 2005.

JONATHAN FERRELLSON

Name

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Signature